

but the President has focused his country's efforts on building a "new economic and political model" that would strengthen its commercial and security relationships with the West. As a result, Kazakhstan has emerged as a regional economic leader, increasing its GDP to \$135 billion—six times greater than its \$22 billion GDP 10 years ago—in addition to increasing its foreign trade to more than \$80 billion. These economic strides and the increase in economic opportunities stand in stark contrast to life under communist rule and are enough to mirror similar opportunities in many western countries, which is no small feat in so little time.

Kazakhstan has also been a reliable ally to the United States, and President Nazarbayev has indicated that he looks forward to strengthening this relationship in addition to reinvigorating the OSCE. Proving his effectiveness and determination to tackle even the toughest of challenges, President Nazarbayev welcomes his country's new undertaking with the same gusto and leadership that helped him transform his country into the promising democracy and economic leader that it is today. Alluding to the many global challenges we face today, he issued a call to action to the member states, urging them to convene in a summit this year, for the first time in 10 years, in order to strengthen the role of the OSCE as we face "one of the most complicated periods in modern history."

One of the main issues he hopes to address and strengthen within the OSCE by holding this summit would be security matters and fighting terrorism. Accordingly, eliminating the terrorist presence and threat in Afghanistan is a matter of high priority that will not only benefit the region but will also have long-term positive implications for our own national security and international security.

The Kazakh president asserted that "it is a time when leaders of OSCE member states should demonstrate their political will and outline solutions to the difficult challenges facing our nations. The summit will not only give a powerful impetus to adapting the OSCE to modern challenges and threats, but also increase the confidence and respect among our peoples to the organization itself."

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, I once again commend President Nazarbayev for his steadfast vision and leadership and urge you today to support him as he sets out to reestablish dialogue among all OSCE member states by convening a summit this year. Such an assembly can only foster cooperation that will ultimately lead to increased security and stability for all.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of March 17, 2010, the Nowruz Commission held its inaugural event at the Library of Congress. Nowruz is recognized by many people around the world who celebrate the exact moment of Vernal Equinox as the beginning of a New Year. Mr. Nasser Kazeminy and

Ms. Gissou R. Kian, serve as Chairman and President of the Nowruz Commission, respectively. Ambassadors and senior diplomats of eight nations serve on the Commission.

Dr. Kamran Khavarani, the creator of "Abstract Romanticism" presented a special painting entitled "The Bird of Freedom" to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson. The painting was accepted by Dr. James Hadley Billington, the Librarian of Congress. This was witnessed by nearly 400 people of Iranian, Iraqi, Turkish, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Russian, Ukrainian and Kurdish origins at the Coolidge Auditorium.

This is the first time in history that an Iranian American artist has presented a painting to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, the man whose gift of books provided the beginning for the Library of Congress. Dr. Kamran Khavarani deserves to be recognized for his unique gift.

The Nowruz Commission, whose mission of bringing diverse people together in search of peace and friendship, deserves special recognition on the first day of spring, Nowruz, March 20, 2010.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I traveled home for the birth of my grandchild. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45300 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert, California, as the "Roy Wilson Post Office." (Rollcall No. 128)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 129)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 130)

"Aye" on Motion to Refer the Resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 131)

"Nay" on Motion to Table raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 132)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended State Admission Day Recognition Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 133)

"Nay" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Agricultural Credit Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 134)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Vermont Long Trail, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States, and congratulating the Green Mountain Club for its century of dedication in developing and maintaining the trail. (Rollcall No. 135)

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, earlier yesterday I was unavoidably detained and

missed rollcall No. 132. If present, I would have voted "yea."

#### IN MEMORY OF FESS PARKER

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 19, 2010*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of an extraordinary actor, a gentleman, a family man, a successful vintner and hotelier, and a patriotic American, Fess Parker, who died Thursday after 85 years of making the world around him a better place.

My wife, Janice, and I were fortunate to call Fess Parker and his wife, Marcella, our friends.

I first met Fess in 1987 when by chance we were seated together on a flight from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles. He had just left the White House where he had been a guest of his old friend Ronald Reagan and I was on my weekly trip home.

From that chance meeting, we built a lasting friendship. I had the good fortune of visiting with Fess on several occasions at his home in Los Olivos. Fess was a humble man with a great sense of humor. He shared many great stories, like how he was discovered by Adolphe Menjou, the debonair movie star of the '30s and '40s.

At the time, Fess was a student at the University of Texas and president of his fraternity. Fess chauffeured Mr. Menjou on his visit to the university, they built a rapport and Menjou paved the way for Fess's own success in Hollywood.

There were many other stories, but none that I enjoyed more than how he met the love of his life, Marcella. It was a true love story that even the most talented of Hollywood writers could not have created.

My experience with Fess is typical. He never acted like a Hollywood star in private life.

After more than 20 years in Hollywood, Fess and Marcella moved to Santa Barbara County. There he produced Fess Parker wine from his 2,200-acre vineyard and opened two top-class hotels, the Fess Parker Wine County Inn and Spa in Los Olivos and Fess Parker Doubletree Inn in Santa Barbara. His wine bottles feature the familiar coonskin cap he made famous in his role as Davey Crockett, as do wine glasses sold at the winery. Fess Parker was known to spend hours signing wine bottles for visitors while regaling them with stories of Hollywood.

He and Marcella also were well-known in town, often seen walking hand-in-hand.

In addition to Marcella, with whom Fess celebrated 50 years of marriage in January, Fess Parker is survived by his son, Eli; daughter, Ashley; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; hundreds of friends and millions of fans.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in offering our condolences to Marcella, Eli, Ashley and their entire family, and in remembering a Hollywood icon whose off-screen values and successes in many ways surpassed the successes of his onscreen personas.